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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MILITARY LIAISON TEAM IN CAMBODIA

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Military Liaison Team in Cambodia (A/48/800 and Corr.1). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided updated information.

2. As stated in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report, by its resolution 880 (1993) of 4 November 1993, the Security Council decided to establish a team of 20 military liaison officers for a single period of 6 months with a mandate, inter alia, to report on matters affecting security in Cambodia. The Military Liaison Team became operational on 15 November 1993 and will complete its mandate on 15 May 1994.

3. Paragraphs 7 to 19 of the Secretary-General's report provide information relating to the structure of the Liaison Team, the initial measures authorizing commitments, the Secretary-General's appeal for voluntary contributions, the financial administration and the cost estimates for the period from 15 November to 15 May 1994.

4. The Advisory Committee notes, inter alia, that the Team, which is to be based in Phnom Penh, will be headed by a Chief Military Liaison Officer and will be assisted by 2 international and 13 locally recruited civilian support staff. The Committee also notes that the bulk of the logistic equipment required by the Team is drawn from the existing resources of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

5. For reasons given in paragraph 12 of the report, the Secretary-General believes that it would seem better to keep the activities of the Team separate from activities to be coordinated through an integrated office. 1/

6. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session in connection with the financing of the Liaison Team are indicated in the corrigendum to the report (A/48/800/Corr.1).

7. Detailed cost estimates are given in annexes I and II to the report. Total military personnel costs, including mission subsistence allowance and costs for contingent-owned equipment and death and disability compensation, are shown at $511,300. With regard to death and disability compensation and evaluation of contingent-owned equipment, the Advisory Committee reiterates its comments contained in document A/47/990 that the question of parameters for the amounts of awards for death and disability should be addressed and the schedule of reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment be reviewed.

8. Total civilian personnel costs, including salaries and allowances, are shown at $222,800. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 2 of annex II to the report that "budgetary provision is made for the payment of subsistence allowance for both military and international civilian staff. From 15 to 30 November 1993, the applicable rate is $145 per day. With effect from 1 December 1993, the revised subsistence allowance rate of $95 has been applied to the calculations". An amount of $340,600 has been shown as the total estimated expenditure for this purpose.

9. The Advisory Committee notes that there is a discrepancy between the mission subsistence allowance rate of $145 per day for the period from 15 to 30 November 1993 indicated in this budget for the Liaison Team and the budgeted rate of $130 per day for the period from 1 October to 30 November 1993 shown for UNTAC in document A/48/701, annex V, paragraph 3. The Advisory Committee was informed that budgetary provision at the rate of $145 per day for the period from 15 to 30 November 1993 was made on the assumption that the higher rate would be applicable for the first 30 days of the Liaison Team's arrival in the mission area; however, as indicated above, beginning 1 December 1993, the rate was revised to $95 per day for both UNTAC and the Liaison Team.

10. The Advisory Committee also trusts that every effort will be made toward achieving maximum economies in areas such as travel, communications and supplies, in particular.

11. The Secretary-General estimates that the total cost of the operation from 15 November 1993 to 15 May 1994 would amount to $910,400 gross ($872,100 net). In its decision 48/480, the General Assembly authorized commitments up to $756,500 gross ($724,200 net) for the period ending 31 March 1994 and decided to apportion this amount among Member States. For the continuation of the operation up to 15 May 1994, the Advisory Committee recommends that an additional amount of $153,900 gross for the period 15 November 1993 to 15 May 1994 be assessed and that the entire estimate of $910,400 gross be appropriated.

Notes

1/ See S/26360, para. 33.